



I am ready to succeed.

ARIZONA STATE BOARD ON SCHOOL READINESS
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES
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CHASE Early Education Emergent Leaders Program

The CHASE Early Education Emergent Leader Program is a strategy of Governor Napolitano's School Readiness Action Plan to improve the education and retention of early education professionals.

In August 2005, twenty-five early childhood practitioners were chosen for the first generation of CHASE Emergent Leaders. The yearlong program improves the quality of the early education system by building the leadership, management, and advocacy skills of those working in the field of early childhood education. Candidates represent the cultural and geographic diversity of children in Arizona.

Management works in the system;
leadership works on the system.

-Stephen R. Covey

The CHASE Emergent Leaders develop leadership skills through discussions with national, state and local leaders, and one-on-one mentoring. Mentors assist the emergent leaders in creating a professional development plan that focuses on a specific project, which will benefit their early education programs or communities.

The CHASE Early Education Emergent Leaders Program is a public/private partnership between the Governor's State School Readiness Board, the Southwest Human Development Training Department, with funding from CHASE, a JPMorgan Company, and the Arizona Early Education Funds.

The State School Readiness Board oversees the implementation of the leadership development program through its Professional Development & Articulation Committee's Emergent Leaders Executive Committee. Through management of the conference series, the Executive Committee invites prominent national, state and local leaders to speak to a broad audience of early childhood education professionals. The emergent leaders then meet in private session with these speakers to ask questions and to dialogue and reflect upon how to apply the points the speaker has made.

Southwest Human Development (SWHD) provides a professional mentor to each CHASE Emergent Leader. The mentor supervises the individual professional development program, meeting with each emergent leader on a regular basis and guiding his or her self-reflection of program speakers and events. The professional development program includes opportunities to learn from state and local leaders, to gain knowledge about leadership, and to apply this knowledge to both their personal and professional lives.

After a year of intentional leadership development, the CHASE Emergent Leaders serve as role models and resource leaders to others in the early childhood education field. This creates a positive ripple effect throughout the state of Arizona. The CHASE Emergent Leaders Program will continue to cultivate early education leaders with a second generation of CHASE Early Education Emergent Leaders starting in the fall of 2006.

I can't believe how much I learned... We met with Senator Aguirre, and she introduced us from the Senate floor... I feel so much more connected to my representatives and wrote them all letters today expressing my concerns about issues effecting early childhood education. Thanks for helping me get to this point. And thanks for the whole experience of the Emerging Leaders project; I am so much more informed and confident after having this experience.

-Cindi Alva, Emergent Leaders Class I

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